

Sate of the municipal address 2017 by the mayor of Greater Tzaneen municipality his worship mayor Maripe Mangena.

The Speaker of Council

The Executive Mayor

Chief Whip of the ruling party the ANC

Executive Committee Members

PMT Members from sister Municipalities

Chair of Chairs

Fellow Councillors

ANC Regional Secretary

Leaders of all political parties

Leaders of Business Community and Civil Society

Traditional Authorities

Leaders of Faith based organizations

General Mathebula

Representation from Sector Departments

Gender and Men's forum

Aids Council, youth, elderly and disability forums

Ward Committee members

Acting MM and all officials

Nkowa-nkowa East EPC Choir

Bana Ba Lehlonolo choir

Members of the media

Distinguished Guest

Fellow citizens of Greater Tzaneen

Comrades and Friends

Good afternoon, Riperile and Thobela

25 May Africa day. We use the month of May annually to reflect on the achievement and challenges that we Africans, living in the African way can celebrate.

It is during this period which we must introspect our value system. We must agree and disagree whether we love ourselves, our country and our continent. It is during this month when we must mirror ourselves to see if there is the African picture in use in respect of our conduct and our attitude.

Africa is very rich in mineral and resources. Should it be in Africa where we suffer starvation and malnutrition?

"I am an African. I belong to Africa." My roots are in Africa and I envy no other continent but Africa. Let us all be patriotic, let us all believe in our capacities and Africa shall be love. God bless Africa!!!

Madam speaker, we have gathered here this afternoon to set together with our people a path through which to travel into the future. It is on this path, during this journey that we shall be conversing with ourselves about what cde Oliver Tambo would have liked us to do for our people as articulated in the freedom charter.

It is against that understanding that we the collective leadership of your local council, will share with you key service delivery measurable achieved in the previous years. The challenges we face and how we anticipate applying our scientific guidance to deliver better services in the year that follow-manifesto. Hon. Chiefs we shall also make transformative pronouncements on critical aspects as we set the trajectory for 2017/2018 and beyond.

Our dear guests, guided by the 2011 election manifesto of the ANC we were able to, among others deliver on:

- Infrastructural development – to help spaza shops and car washes.
- Mafarana- sedan- Ramotshinyadi to Mokgwathi
- Senakwe to Morapalala
- Thapane to Morutji
- The potholed Nkowankowa road is today so drivable
- From Sasekeni via Petanenge to Nkowankowa motorists have more reasons to celebrate.
- we have built bridges for the first time in black rural areas at Ramotshinyadi, Mopye, Thako To Sefolwe
- Nkowankowa C top of the range indoor Sport complex.

- We recently completed the Tickyline to Makhwibidung Tar road which we officially opened on 18th of March.

Peace loving people of our beloved Tzaneen, we are currently implementing the following.

The upgrading of the Rita to Mariveni Tar Road progressed well until the contractor was prevented from entering Zaghoma Village where the road passes through. We have engaged the community there, however there is still deadlock. The progress is at 69% and amount of R80 million has been spend so far.

The Moruji to Maswi Tar Road project has also been delayed due to litigation which has not been resolved. The progress in that project was also delayed due to heavy rainfall earlier in the year. The progress stands at 19% with an accumulated expenditure of R21.5 million.

The upgrading from gravel to tar of the Mafarana to Burgersdorp Road is at 65% with an accumulated expenditure of R98.6 million.

Madam Speaker

The total consolidated budget for the 2017/2018 financial year amounts to **R1,150 billion**, which represents an increase of R57,9 million over the 2016/2017 financial year.

This increase is mainly due to the increase in service charges and external grants from Government.

The total revenue budget includes an amount of **R311,9 million** which represents the equitable share allocation to the Greater Tzaneen Municipality.

An amount of **R108 million** will be levied by way of property tax and **R534,3 million** will be sourced from user charges.

National allocations to fund operational activities amount to **R7,063 million** which includes the Finance Management Grant of **R2,145 million** and the EPWP **R4,918 million**.

An amount of **R1,105 Billion** has been made available on the operational budget for expenditure. This substantial increase is largely due to the increase in salaries, repairs and maintenance, general expenses and ESKOM's tariff for bulk electricity purchases. The Expenditure amount also includes **R257 million** for salaries, **R181 million** for repairs and maintenance and **R345 million** for the purchase of bulk electricity.

An amount of **R140, 8 million** has been allocated for capital expenditure for the 2017/2018 financial year. This amount includes the MIG allocation of **R91 million** which will be spend on roads and Sport and Recreational facilities as well as an amount of **R5 million** which represents counter funding on MIG Projects. Capital from loans amount to R34 744 614.

Madam Speaker

The total revenue of GTEDA's Budget amounts to R7, 146 million which represents an increase of R411 thousand or 6, 1% on the 2016/2017 Annual Budget. The total revenue amount consist of a Grant from GTM.

The total operational expenditure amounts to **R6,911 million** of which **R4,622 million** of the total expenditure represents salaries and an amount of **R1,5 million** of total expenditure represents general expenditure.

An amount of **R235 thousand** has been provided for Office Equipment in the capital budget.

Madam Speaker

No change to the property rates tariff of the this financial year will be effected due to the high increase in property values on the new valuation roll and that an additional rebate of 20% on the property rates charge of residential property be effected.

However we are going to effect increases to our Revenue consumptive tariff-based services.

Electricity will go up by **1,88%**, Water will be increased by **6,4%**, Sanitation **6,4%** and Solid Waste will also go up by **6,4%**

Madam Speaker

30, 0% of our budget will be spent Staff cost, which include salaries, allowance, pension contribution and medical aid.

We will spend **30,0%** of the budget on Bulk Purchases of electricity and water.

Repairs & Maintenance will make up **19,6%** of the total budget and General Expenses will take **10,4%**.

Madam Speaker:

We are going to undertaking the construction of several infrastructure projects in various wards of our municipality in the coming financial years. Some of these projects are:

R6.3 million for the Paving of Mopye access road to school

R6.1 million for the Paving of Nelson Ramodike High Access road to school

R11 million for Taring Nkowankowa A Codesa and Hani Street

R6.5 million for MULATI Access road re-gravelling and Storm Water Management

R3.5 million for Tickyline to Makhwibidung Strom Water Management

R6.3 million for Lenyenye Street paving

R3.1 million for Mawa B12 low level bridge

Madam Speaker on Electricity

R1.1 million for New entrance R36 streetlights

R1.1 million for installation of Apollo Lights Dan Village

R1.1 million for installation of Apollo Lights Nkowankowa

R1.1 million for installation of Apollo lights at Petanenge

R1.1 million for installation of Zanghoma/Mariveni Apollo lights at Mariveni

R1.1 million for installation of Apollo lights at Moime and Shikwambana

R1.1 million for installation of Apollo lights at Lusaka

R1.1 million for installation of Apollo lights at Sethong

R1.1 million for installation of Apollo lights at Moleketla

R1.1 million for installation of Apollo lights at Xihoko

R1.1 million for installation of Apollo lights at Mandlakazi

R1.1 million for installation of Apollo Lights Burgersdorp

Area lighting

R300 thousand for Area Lighting at Tarentaal rand Crossing

We will spend R15 million on New Electricity Connections

We will rebuild the following electricity lines based on our interaction with the citizens

- Letsitele Valley substation – Bosbou and all T offs (22 km
- Valencia 11kv lines
- Rebuilding of Lushof South 11kv lines
- Rebuilding of Rooikoppies 11kv lines
- Mabiet 11kv lines
- Haenertsburg 11kv lines
- Campsies Glen 11kv lines
- Politsi Valley 11kv lines
- CP Minnaar 11kv lines
- Waterbok 11kv lines
- Mieliekloof / Deerpark 11kv lines
- Letaba Feeder 33KV line
- Waterbok 33/11KV Substation
- Blacknoll 33/11KV Substation

Electrification of households

- R7million for the Electrification of Xihoko/Thapane/Radoo/Mavele Phase 2
- R6 million for the Electrification of Julesburg area
- R400 thousands for Cannors Settlement
- R1.7 million for Schultz Settlement
- R1.5 million for Nyanyukani/Masoma/Hweetsi
- R800 thousands for Gavaza

- R330 thousands for Pulaneng
- R198 thousands for Jokong
- R742 thousands for Wisani/Shikwambana/Vento Park
- R3.6 million for of Motseteng/Lenyenye
- R400 thousands for of Mokgolobotho
- R1.6 million for Madawa
- R2 million for Thako/Khwekhwe
- R1.8 million for Semarela/Ramphelo/Sethong

Sports facilities

We are busy with the refurbishment of some of our sporting facilities. Some are at an advanced stage while others are still at the procurement stage.

- R15.3 million for Lenyenye stadium upgrade phase2
- R8,9 million for the Upgrading Burgersdorp Sports facility phase 2 of 2

R4,5 million for the Upgrading Julesburg Sports Facility Phase 1 of 2

Madam Speaker from Mopani District Municipality

Mariveni water Reticulation Network refurbishment and upgrade

Makhubidung water Reticulation Network refurbishment and upgrade

Matshelapata water Reticulation Network refurbishment and upgrade

Kubjana water Reticulation Network refurbishment and upgrade

Thapane Water Treatment refurbishment

Nkowakowa Waste Water Treatment refurbishment

Mokgoobotho upgrading of internal Water reticulation network

Lenyenye Waste Water Treatment Plant Perimetre fence

Thapane Regional Water Scheme (Upgrading of Water Reticulation and Extensions.

Thapane Ward 8,9,10

Jopie to Mawa/ Ramotshinaydi Ward 2, 3, 9 Lephepane Bulk Water supply

Ward 34

Thapane Water Supply Scheme Upgrading and Extension, Project Wards 8,9,10

Tours Water Scheme Bulk lines refurbishment and reticulations

Water affairs and sanitation

Construction of Nwamitwa Dam Project, Construction of a new major storage dam on the Groot Letaba River just downstream of the Nwanedzi River confluence - For Ecological Reserve, Domestic & Irrigation supply assurance.

R2 million for the raising of the existing Tzaneen Dam by 3m to augment the domestic water supply.

R120 million for the Implementation of bulk pipeline in Nkambako/ Babanana.

The Department of Health (DOH) is and will be implementing the following projects in the greater Tzaneen municipality

- Grace Mugodeni EMS
- Upgrading of Administration and Psychiatric Ward in Letaba Regional Hospital

- Upgrading of Dr CN Phatudi Hospital

The Department Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET) has allocated funds for the following projects:

- R7 million for the development of a shopping centre in Nkowakowa section B
- R90 million for the servicing and Development of Dan Extension

The Limpopo Economic Development Agency (LEDA) has allocated and approved the following amounts for the implementation of projects in the GTM.

- **R218 million** to support for Mununzu (pty) Ltd for 700ha New Advocado Development
- **R22 million** to support for Norjax Canning (Pty) Ltd for Tomato Paste

The department of education has allocated millions for upgrades, addition of classrooms, as well as maintenance and repairs for several schools in the GTM.

Bessie Maake, D.Z.J Mthebule, Favasi, Nyavana Primary, Khujwana Primary, Mahwahwa High, Malubana Primary, Malwandla Primary, Mariveni Primary, Markshoppe Secondary, Matokane Secondary, just to mention a few.

The department of agriculture has already approved a budget to cater for the following projects:

- R28 million for Agri hub Development in Tzaneen, Broderstroomdrfit 534 LT
- R36.5 million for Infrastructure Development at Kgatle CPA
- R30 milliion for Infrastructure Development at Mokgolobotho CPA

- R40 million for Infrastructure Development at Mamahlola CPA
- R500 thousands Infrastructure Development at Solani Irrigation scheme
- R125 thousands for Infrastructure Development at Julesburg Irrigation scheme

The Department Of Sports, Arts & Culture will implement the following projects

- R14 million for the Construction of Runnymede library

As Rolihlahla once said, that only when you reach at the peak of the mountain do you realise that there are many more mountains to climb.

We had the following challenges which we are determined to change because we are willing

ELECTRICITY: We experienced numerous electricity cut in and around town and in the farms. The meeting we held with the affected residents and in particular the farming community is to find some urgent intervention on an ongoing endeavours. Indeed together we can do more. The farmers volunteered their resources to help the municipality to help them-mutualism

Legal fees: We identified and acknowledge that there was a time when it was so common and fashionable in Tzaneen to loose cases.

In response our dear beautiful people of the greenest town, we have resolved in council that we must pay according to standard rates as applicable or regulated. Our officials know that from 01/07/2017 any matter before going out must be tested to pass the legal fights. We said so on 17/08/2016 and we repeat.

Strikes/protests

We invite all disciplined and orderly brothers and sisters of our GTM- to understand and accept it that it is not all times that we shall realise the dreams we live according to our frames. Chapter 2 (17) of provides us the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa provide that everyone the right to demonstrate, protest, picket and to present a petition peacefully.

I for one strongly believe that any member of the community who indulges on action outside the governance structure we have set e.g. ward committees, councillors, Indunas etc here in Tzaneen must be seen as an enemy of the people 'Ntlo lerole ga e tswale Kgosi' many have failed through violence means "pen is mightier than a sword". **N.B. residents must attend community meetings, raise their issue, give time frames and wait for responses. If not satisfied give ultimatum. We cannot have the entire community be surprised and astonished by non-community based decision to block the roads. In fact, not block, burn a 16 million tar road with R1 matches. Such must be treated as criminals unsympathetically.**

We must respect other people's rights to go to clinics, schools, work etc. I do not agree with those who say waking up without community resolution and close roads in protests and demand for e.g. unbudgeted road is an expression of democratic rights

We will not build a street that is not budgeted for or not in the IDP raised by community. Fellow peace loving residents of Tzaneen please understand us and Support us.

Madam speaker everyone must be asking themselves, how does the new council seek to change the GTM from where it is to higher level. We are here to give you precisely our well defined dreams and

aspiration. Join us as we journey the path on our struggle. All the plans will be based on the consolidated views of the public.

Guided by the ANC election manifesto on aspects: Together we shall continue to improve public participation and accountability:

Since the establishment of this new council we have paid courtesy visits to all our esteemed royal houses and explained to them how we need to work together they are:

1. Dikolobe tsa bja mamabolo tsa bjatladi
2. Ba ga Queen Modjadji
3. Va ka xihoko- Nyavana
4. Va ka Hosi N'wamitwa
5. Va ka Nkuna ka Muhlava
6. Bathlabine bag a Mogoboya ga Mmakatla a maite Dinoko
7. Diphuti bakgaka bag a Maake ga Mmakatlhapane ka Mapoto la hlapa ka meetsa le a paologa

This afternoon we want to take this opportunity to acknowledge them and appreciate their support.

Peace, loving residents of Tzaneen we have established ward committees in all 35 wards to represent you in all various segments of your development representing a total of 350 for the 416000 population we have in Tzaneen.

Tzaneen is divided into four clusters for proper management and immediate accountability.

Madam Speaker, we profoundly apologise to the ward committees for failing to pay them on time. We are in the process of establishing ward based stakeholders forum, cluster based because we have municipal based stakeholders forum. All our councillors will report to their

communities. We shall not hesitate to take to task those who do not account to their constituencies.

We have also through mayor's special programme established a structure which represents various needs of our diverse people e.g. AIDS council.

Madam speaker, our people have a space to interface, we shared with them where we want to be in 2021.

Madam Speaker we have said together we shall develop and strengthen Tzaneen economy, create jobs and promote job placements programs especially for the youth.

Our PED through council has established an economic development arm, GTEDA which now has an active board. We pride ourselves with the establishment of the GTFM (a Tzaneen local/community radio station supported by GTEDA).

Greater Tzaneen local economic development forum is alive and kicking and includes important agriculture stakeholders and those in mining like Maranda.

Research shows that youth unemployment has reached chronic levels.

To address that we are unleashing a rigorous programme to forge partnership with various spheres of government, state owned enterprises, private sector, civil society and international interventions.

Within two weeks, our PED and GTEDA must meet greater Tzaneen community foundation and explore ways of sealing real partnership. GTCF is having links with some universities in Brasilia, Bolivia, Mozambique, Uruguay, UL, TUT amongst others.

Young people must benefit from relations with Dept of agriculture, we congratulate them for winning a provincial award as the best agriculture practitioners in Limpopo (Mme Nonthokozo and her colleague).

LEDET, international movement of mural artist NYDA, SEDA

Our dream of having agro-processing plant in Tzaneen is now bolstered by the R40 million investments in Nkowankowa industries.

Madam speaker in the next five years we wish to see thousands of people from all corners of the municipality working in this industries

GTEDA together with other likeminded entities must explain to council how we can maximise the municipal assets like Tzaneen airfield, Macdonald market, etc in job creation. Mashupatsela farm belongs to MOPANI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY but it is found in our shore, by September we must be able to report back to you our constituency, progress in its development. We invite all cooperatives to update themselves and be ready to run an aggressive race. Nationally and provincially- government is entering into twinning agreement with agriculture rich countries and we should position ourselves to benefit from that move.

On 22/05/2017 the PMT AND EXCO, received delegation from Cote d'Ivoire 's high commission and one of their Mayor of Tebaloise municipal area. The area is said to be the richest in agriculture and we can exploit the opportunities on exchange programmes.

Madam Speaker LEDET must intervene on Mogoboya/Thlabine development to grow our rural economy.

GTEDA has facilitated a R104 million from IDC for establishment of Vexospark digital college in Tzaneen.

We requested GTEDA and our PED to work closely with the Tzaneen business chamber on their initiatives for an agri-e college to ensure that the poorest of the poor amongst our people can stand to benefit and have access.

Cllr Tiba, indeed we are determined to change for the better.

We shall be populating our LED incentive policy

- To attract and retain investment
- Create enabling investment environment in tourism, agriculture, green economy and hospitality.

As GTM, we will continue to host the AGRI- EXPO which exposes our emerging farmers to real world of farming and we urge commercial farmers to carry them along to empower them.

Madam speaker, in the next five years we must be shown a number of young black farmers that are growing , we need that programme that must assist us to lead the transformation agenda with soberness and clarity because without a programme, opportunists will take over and destroy our dream.

We have initiated discussions with Agri-letaba to integrate the letaba show with AGRI-EXPO that we achieved, we will have one of the biggest economic based shows which will grow our economy and create jobs. Watch us, if we are not achieving implementation phase come 2018/2019, peace and tranquillity shall prevail, in addressing our Tzaneen economy, our own way. People across colour bar, cultural differences, religious beliefs and political view- working together we will achieve.

Our royal councils, our impediment or bottlenecks for development is land which SPLUMA is addressing. GTM has withdrawn from the joint Mopani municipal planning tribunal to speed up the development applications received.

Council invites all business establishments not complying to comply.

You cannot play far from the source if you want to achieve in any significant initiative. It is against this background that we visited NAMPO show from the 15 May 2017 – 19 MAY 2017 in Nala Municipality in the Free State. The mayor presented to high level leadership and they promised to visit our expo and they support our integration. They have a story to tell about growing the small farmer in particular the formerly disadvantaged.

To increase tourism, building the highest tower around coach house is ideal to see Limpopo at large. Together we shall build spatially integrated communities.

We have housed more 13533 people who would otherwise not be able to build their own houses, 2017/18 we shall build 700 more RDP houses through Coghsta. An order before you the public is that housing allocations in not a private or personal exercise and therefore the CDW's, ward committees must ensure transparency and fairness working with traditional authorities and other interested stakeholders.

Madam Speaker

During public participation in Lenyenye Mr Maponya Tshepi pleaded that the municipality must make land available as they are land locked. The GTM is busy with township establishment in Ha-Mawasha farm including Macdonald area, brick yard and Talana hostels. We have also

concluded negotiations to buy land in Letsitele for integrated human settlement. All these are settlement for everybody irrespective of their tribal belonging, ethnic origin or racial grouping; it is the land of the people.

Our traditional leadership, reps in council, we want you to solve the land question using the applicable legal system.

As a municipality we will not dictate who owns what, we shall be guided by legal documents. Those with dissatisfaction on certain pieces and demarcations do not involve the people, please battle it out in courts.

Yes – because people will fight

There shall be neither tribal nor ethnic fights. Our people must also ask the right question when given settlements; can you proof to us your ownership?

Please- do not get involved.

We have promised our people that together we shall improve and enhance institutional capacity of Greater Tzaneen municipality. You the bona-fide residents of GTM know that by end of July, there shall be no vacant senior position in GTM.

We have adopted our organogram for the first time in five years.

Our local labour forum is fully fledged and working well with our unions, sister departments like public works.

We hope to reduce acting capacities. We have resolved as leadership that we are appointing people with skill and capacity based on suitability. We have said, together we shall intensify the fight against fraud and corruption in GTM.

Madam speaker, we deliberately requested the workers of Tzaneen to leave their offices to come here and listen to us talking to the voters, the truth.

If you have been stealing

Practising nepotism

Doing fraud

Taking bribes

We are officially drawing a line that from 1st July 2017-everything stops.

We promise if you get into that space we will take necessary actions. Summarily refrain because we shall be merciless. We love you but we do not love you more than our people. We shall not compromise our people for your sake.

Madam Speaker we want to assure the public that we in the ANC took a deliberate decision to institute a forensic investigation, and we shall report back by end of June. We have told our people that together we shall improve access to municipal services and reduce outsourcing.

Hon chief whip, we have requested the Acting-MM to look into services that we can in-source in the next financial year. We hope this will create better opportunities for our people.

We shall continue to improve the living conditions of our people by delivering the following services. In response to our promises about services

- Attend electrical maintenance.
- Today the parents of Letaba Special School are able to take their children back to school because GTM has intervened to resolve the electricity challenge.
- No street or Apollo light must take more than 7 days without repair or explanation to the users.
- We have declared war on potholes in town and townships. All potholes must be patched by the end of July and a dedicated team to constantly monitor.
- Mopani District Municipality and GTM must leave no water leakages for a week.
- Our struggle to acquire WSA is ongoing (we have written to the minister and lepelle in that regard)
- GTM and Public Works will share resources like transport, material and human resources to maintain our roads 2017/18 projects.

Together we shall fight crime in Tzaneen

Cllr Machimana, the 2016 police athlete of the year, 2016 provincial detective of the year and 2016 CPF provincial of the year all hail from GTM under the custodian of the **general Mathebula**.

Madam speaker we have 4 police stations and three satellites.

In the next five years we shall lobby for the establishment of fully fledged one near our people to improve the turn over time. Our people live in fear. Farmers live in fear; our women live in fear, and

our young girls fear to walk the streets to school alone. Learners studying- fear to walk after 18h00 against their wish to burn midnight oils. We must protect them.

We as the GTM have launched new CPF's in all four policing areas.

Through the cluster, we have attached a politician to each station for prompt reporting and accountability.

Cllr Machimana is leading the process of establishing CSF and streets committees, let us participate and defeat criminals, they are very few, insignificant number but they terrorise all of us, why? The ruling party manifesto says: "Together we shall fight crime in communities by strengthening the community safety forums and forming street committees". As a Municipality we have tried to live up to this expectation. We have launched a crime fighting campaign at Xihoko-Nyavana Traditional authority area after the fatal stabbing of a young boy due to gang related activities.

The premier in his state of the province touched on the issues of the gangs who traumatizes the citizens of Dan village and the surrounding areas. Together with the SAPS, we have established street committees at Dan-Mbhalati where gangs such as Boko Haram and Sankhine have been persecuting the communities. We are happy to report that the activities of gangs have been curtailed, and that the community at Dan is living in peace and harmony.

Madam Speaker

At Lephepane, we intervened by establishing block and street committees at ndhuna Modiba. We will continue to establish them in the remaining Mokgoboya traditional areas where there is insurgency of muggings and beatings of community members. We have

participated in the Colloquium of the Limpopo Province Department of Safety, Security and Liaison, which focused on crime and farm attacks. We will be hosting our own Colloquium on the 31st May 2017 which will focus on protests and the approach to dealing with them. We have supported the Arrive Alive campaigns during December 2016 and in April 2017. It is our wish to realize a zero fatality rate for Greater Tzaneen Municipality for the 365 days of the year.

Tau tsa hloka seboka di sitwa ke nare e hlotsa.

We have allowed letaba alarms to put cameras all over town for security of property and people in and around town. According to SAPS report, crime is dwindling around Tzaneen, we attribute that to the fact that criminals are aware that they will be caught. Business must support our endeavours to total eradication of crime with airtime, torches, reflectors, catering etc.

We assured our people that together we shall promote education as the apex priority in local communities. In furtherance of our assurance, GTM agrees with the assertion by the premier during his state of the province address that education is a societal matter, he challenged us to find long lasting solutions. Despite the % drop the 2016 most improved school in matric results in the province is in GTM, Gwambeni High School, in this school there was lot of gangsterism to the extent that in 2016 two learners stabbed one another where one died mysteriously. The school was distressed.

The mayor and general Mathebula visited and supported the school. Against all those, the learners persevered and today we invited a few current learners to come and draw inspiration from meeting you, dear

pastors, real mothers and fathers, we thank the principal Mr Mabunda who is our guest today. ST George School got position 3 in the category of independent schools in the province and we also take this opportunity to congratulate the principal Madam Varughese who is also our guest. 10 Circuit Managers are here today, we are committing ourselves to supporting them.

Madam Speaker

This 2017 the Council has assisted 110 students to register in institutions of higher learning through the Mayor's Student Financial assistance (MSFAS). We also awarded excellence by recognizing the best performed learners, educators, schools and circuits of the class of 2016. The Municipality bought 11 Lenova notebooks for the best performing learners of the class of 20. The Municipality through the Greater Tzaneen Economic Agency (GTEDA) continues and commit to support initiatives like the Tickyline Community based Projects which seeks to address the call by the Premier of finding a long-lasting solution to educational problems. Former President Mandela believed that 'Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.' And so we do as a Council.

My fellow councillors have visited both the best and poorly Performed School. The Mayor also had space to address Motupa, Mafarana and Shilluvane circuits. We applaud schools in Shilluvane, they invited the principals of best schools in the province to learn best practices.

Through GTEDA, we are partnering with Motupa for a R20 million library project from rand water foundation. Oliver Tambo once said, "The nation that does not invest in its youth has no future".

Together we promote social cohesion and building capacities.

We want to position GTM as a flagship for unity. We are diverse yet we have potential to be so much - united we stand.

We hosted our annual mayor's cup on the 18th of March 2017 at the Lenyenye stadium, the occasion was graced by the performance of King Monada the son of this soil who is our guest today.

We invite business to get ready to partake like Wisani burial society, Letaba alarms as they did this 2017 mayor's cup. We have mayor's cup programmes that are still coming. Bring all family members and friends from near and far.

SOMA will continue to be held yearly around this time after SONA and SOPA. We want to appreciate again Wisani burial society, Magic Build and Hotel@tzaneen for their contributions to these SOMA.

We call on all citizens to stand against racism and join hands. We seriously condemn acts of racism in Tzaneen.

- Pension/grants committees must address the issue of airtime and loans deduction on grants cards
- It is ironic that we who are owning a well renowned Malaria Institute are victim of malaria. Hospitals and health centres must protect us and educate us about prevention. Condolences to families that lost their loved ones to this tragedy.

Madam Speaker Cllr Lettie Hlangwane and cllr Malatji will be helping to establish clinic committees and ensure that there is 24hr service in qualifying clinics.

We will campaign for fire services to go to rural villages as they are vulnerable.

From today, all ward committees led Ward Councillors are expected give their state of the ward address (SOWA). We expect this programme to be concluded by the 31st of June 2017.

In conclusion

Those who came before laid a strong foundation, we shall continue to build until we achieve, and we shall action back to basics to give basic service to our people.

We shall continue to put the people of Tzaneen first, then our visitors and passer-by's.

We are in the urge of breakthrough in crime.

We are the leadership which will care for your purse.

We shall employ qualifying personnel.

We shall attract investments.

Yes because we are the government of the people by the people and for the people

We tolerate no corruption

We promote no tribalism

We condemn racism and ethnicity

We stand for unity; we are the children of Oliver Tambo

We shall achieve with and for the people of Tzaneen

We are the bona-fide residents of Tzaneen and we shall call ourselves Tzaneenians

We want safety and tranquillity

I pledge you, I pledge the GTM leadership to the new ways of doing things.

Everybody and everyone getting involved because we know and believe that "the strength of the crocodile is in the water" die krokodile se kraag is in die water"

Maatla a kwena a ka meetsing

Matimba ya Ngwenya ya le matini

Come one come all- lets journey back to Africa in spirit, thoughts and attitudes.

Mayibuye

I Africa